(b) and (c) The saleable steel production in SAIL integrated steel plants has been as follows :

(Unit—million tonnes)

Year	Target	Actual	%age fulfilment	%age growth previous year
1990-91	7.776	7.364	95	4.2
1991-92	7.951	8.028	101	9.0
1992-93	8.216	8.335	101	3.8

The production of saleable steel has not come down and there has been growth over the years. However, the quantum of growth varies from year to year, depending on facilities available and quantity/quality of inputs.

Closure of Mini Steel Plants

199. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of mini steel plants in the country have been lying closed failing to sustain their viability mainly due to change in the Government policy relating to the steel sector ;

(b) whether Government are contemplating any steps to help the closed mini steel plants to resume operation ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, including contingency evolved, if any, for providing relief/rehabilitation to large number of people rendered unemployed by closure of the plants ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) to (c) The performance of mini steel plants has been affected not by any change in Government policy but due to various factors such as demand recession, shortage of power and increase in input costs particularly in international scrap prices. The industry has represented for various reliefs and the proposals made by the industry are under the consideration of Government.

Sponge Iron Industry

200. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the number of sponge iron units operational in Bihar with details thereof, and what is the capacity of each of such units per annum ;

(b) the number of units out of these units which are coal based and gas based and what was their total production during the last three years ; year-wise details ;

(c) whether it is a fact that the availability of coal in abundance and plenty of raw material make Bihar an ideal state for the development of sponge iron industry ; and

(d) if so, what action Government proposes to take to develop sponge iron industry in Bihar ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) and (b) While there is no gas based sponge iron unit in Bihar, at present there is one coal based sponge iron unit of M/s. Bihar Sponge Iron Ltd. having a capacity of 1.5 lakh tonnes per annum in Bihar. The unit which is in production since July, 1989 is located in District Singhbhum, Bihar. Its total production during the last 3 years has been as under :

Year	Production (in lakh tonnes)
1990-91	1.15
1991-92	1.24
1992-93	1.19

(c) and (d) The Sponge Iron Industry is exempted from the requirement of industrial licensing except for certain restricted locations. Government approval for industrial license is therefore not required for establishment of sponge iron units except for the restricted locations (i.e. within 25 Kms. of any city having a population of more than 10 lakh as per the 1991 Census). Entrepreneurs are therefore free to take

investment decisions keeping in view availability of raw materials, proximity to consumers and other relevant factors.

Modernisation of the Steel Plants

201. SHRI P.K. AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that heavy outlay has been made for modernisation of the Steel plants under the control of the Government;

(b) if so, the plant-wise details in terms of investment to be made, resources to be mobilised alongwith their source plants and machinery to be installed; and

(c) in what manner this modernisation is going to improve the financial condition of the Steel plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Plant-wise details investment of funds on modernisation of SAIL plants and their sources are given below:

(Rs. in crores)

Name of Sail Project	Total investment	Sources		
		External commercial borrowing including supplies credit	Loan from Steel Development fund and other Domestic Borrowing	Internal Resources
Durgapur Steel Plant (DSP) Modernisation	3897	829	1111	1957
Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) Modernisation	3954	610	1497	1847
Bokaro Steel Plant (BSL) Modernisation	1625.79	283.5	529.45	812.84

Plantwise details of the plant and Machinery to be installed are indicated in the statement. (*See below*).

(c) The modernisation programme of Steel Plants is expected to result in improvement in the quality of Steel and cost reduction through improvement in productivity and reduced energy consumpton. This will improve the financial viability of these plants. in the long term.

Statement

Installation of Plant & Machinery Under Modernisation

DSP Modernisation

The major facilities envisaged under the DSP modernisation are as follows :—

1. Mechanised storage and blending yard for sized ore, fines fluxes etc. in Raw Material Handling.
2. Installation of a new sinter plant (192 SQ. M)
3. Reconstruction of 3 Nos. of Blast Furnaces.
4. Installation of a mew Coke Oven battery and a By Product Plant complex including Phosam plant.
5. Installation of 3 Nos. of LD converters (3 × 11 OT capacity).
6. Installation of a new Lime Calcination Plant (3 vertical shaft KILN of 300T/day capacity.
7. Installation of new Hot Metal Repair Shop.
8. Installation of new Containuous Casting Plant (2 × 6 strands billet caster).
9. Installation of New Repair Shop & Instrument Store.